

**Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**November 13, 2001**  
**Yellowstone Inn**  
**Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.**

**I. Introduction**

**Members Present:**

John Bailey, Chair  
 Roy Aserlind  
 Andy Dana  
 Dave Haug, Vice Chair

Doug Ensign  
 Jerry O'Hair  
 Bob Wiltshire  
 Ellen Woodbury  
 Jim Woodhull

**Others Present:**

Laurence Siroky, DNRC Ex-Officio  
 Allan Steinle, Corps Ex-Officio  
 Stan Sternberg, MDT Ex-Officio  
 Joel Tohtz, FWP Ex-Officio  
 Liz Galli-Noble, Coordinator  
 Devri Roubidoux, Administrative Secretary (DNRC)

Lionel Dicharry  
 Daryl Stutterheim  
 Bill Moser  
 Karl Biastoch

Myla McGowan  
 Duncan Patten  
 Jim Robinson

**II. Prior Meeting Minutes**

The October 16, 2001 minutes were approved as written.

**III. Financial Updates**

**1. Grant Spending Report:**

Liz Galli-Noble reported the following financial updates to the Task Force:

<b>EXPENDED GRANTS</b>			
<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Study Component</b>
DNRC Watershed Planning Assistance Grant	6-30-99	2,100.00	Physical Features Inventory
DNRC HB223 Grant	7-30-99	10,000.00	Aerial Photography
DNRC Riparian/Wetlands Educational Grant	6-30-00	960.99	Hydrologic Response to the 1988 Fires
DEQ Grant (319 1 <sup>st</sup> )	9-30-00	40,000.00	Coordinator Position
DNRC Watershed Planning Assistance Grant	1-31-01	10,000.00	Watershed Land Use Study
DEQ Start-Up Grant	6-26-01	49,138.00	Coordinator position, Administrative Secretary, additional cross-sections, and operating expenses.
DNRC HB223	10/1/01	6,500.00	Riparian Trend Analysis
BLM Funding (Wildlife Study)	10/26/01	10,000.00	Wildlife Study
<b>CURRENT GRANTS</b>			
<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
DNRC RDGP Grant (expires December 31, 2002)	299,940.00	234,443.98	65,496.02
DEQ 319 Grant (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) (expires August 31, 2002)	58,000.00	23,011.45	34,988.55
DEQ 319 Grant (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) (expires June 20, 2003)	44,000.00	0	44,000.00

**US Army Corps of Engineers Budget Summary** (contracted/projected expenditures as of October 1, 2001)

Item	Vendor	Amount Spent	Task/Study Funded
Labor & Travel	Corps	80,000	Project Coordination
Color Infrared Photos	Private	9,620	For NWI Wetland Mapping
Demo Maps	USFWS	3,316	NWI Wetland Mapping
Corridor Inventory	USFWS	16,486	NWI Wetland Mapping
Digital Orthophotos	US Forest Service	29,943	Topographic Mapping Project
Research Investigation	MSU—USGS Coop	97,536	Fish Populations Study
GIS Data Development	USDA—NRCS	25,700	Physical Features Inventory
Fieldwork Support	USGS—WRD	6,500	Hydraulic Analysis
Fieldwork Support	USDA—NRCS	5,000	HGM Case Study
Research Investigation	USGS—BRD	200,000	Fish Habitat Study
Research Investigation	MSU—USGS Coop	106,000	Wildlife Study (Bird Study)
Contour Maps	Corps	180,000**	Topographic Mapping
Research Investigation	Private (BBC)	145,312	Socio-Economic Assessment
Study Closure	U of Montana	55,000**	Riparian Trend Analysis
		<b>\$960,413</b>	

\*\* = Estimated cost

**Budget Available:**

FY 1999 Congressional Appropriation	320,000
FY 1999 Corps Regulatory Branch	52,000
FY 2001 Congressional Appropriation	<u>650,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,022,000</b>

**October 2001**

Projected obligations to date	\$960,413
Balance remaining from FY 99	\$0

**Projected balance remaining from FY 01 \$61,587**

**IV. Technical Advisory Committee Business**

**Communicating Ecological Concepts to the Public**

Dr. Duncan Patten, TAC Chair, presented the concept of communicating ecological indicators to the public and used an overhead (see *Figure 1* below) to illustrate his point. Duncan conveyed to the Task Force that they need to start thinking about: (1) what questions need to be addressed when the scientific data comes in, and (2) what will the Task Force do with those scientific findings? Duncan used the overhead to show how the different data sets and measures can all be related to the various questions that need to be answered about the area. He also suggested that the Task Force send out a mailing that asks: "What do you think the important issues are?" Duncan felt this would help to get people thinking about how they are going to use all of the data that will be coming in. It was suggested that Duncan's diagram would be given out to people to help them draw their own lines between their concerns (general issues) and the data (measures/indicators).

John Bailey asked the group to think about: what they are going to do with the studies and how will the Task Force take all of the information and use it? There was further discussion and the following questions were asked: Who will explain all of this data? Do the researches need to be present to explain everything? Will presentations be needed to help decide how the Task Force can use the data? Would it be beneficial to have workshops?

This presentation was simply to get people thinking about these issues. The Task Force will revisit the topic at future meetings.

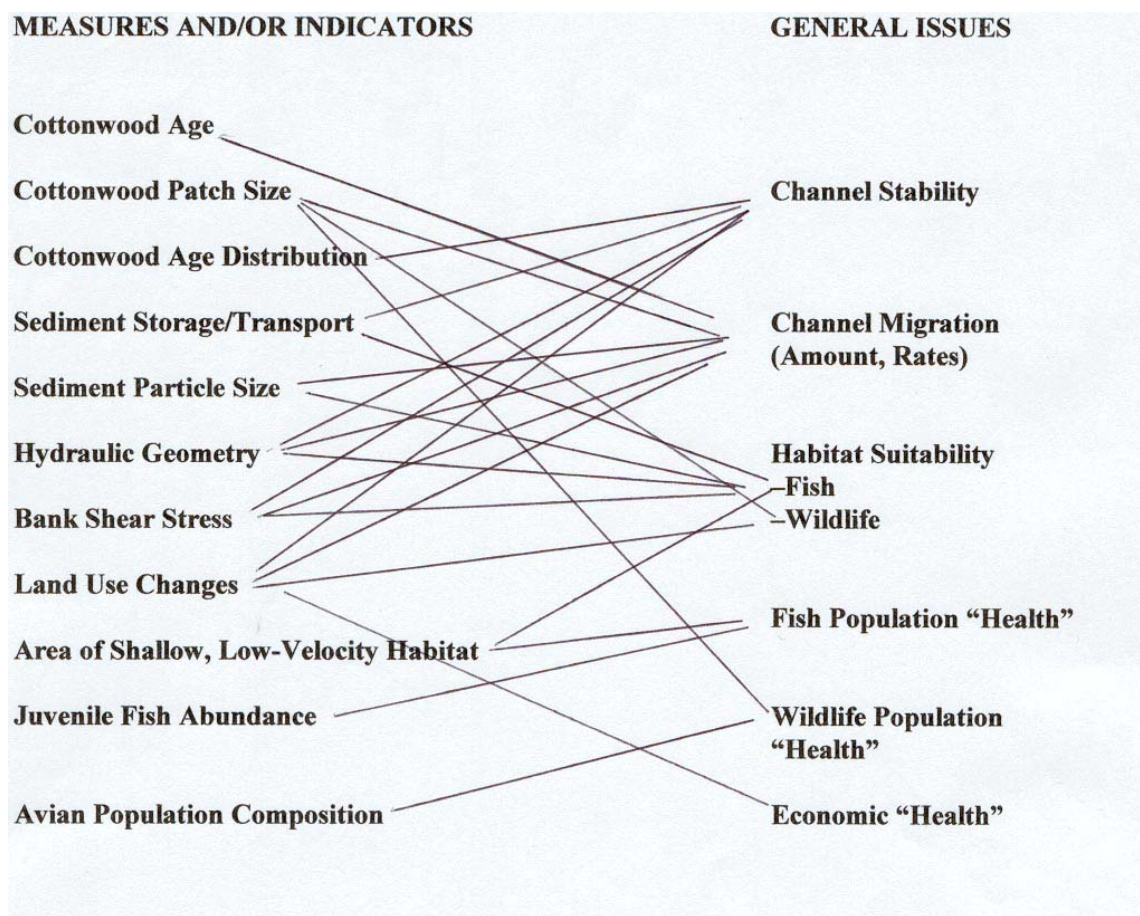


Figure 1. Communicating ecological indicators to the public.

## V. Old Business

Liz provided copies of a letter that John Bailey had sent to the US Geological Service-Biological Resources Division, concerning the publication: *Open File Report #01-58 Toward Assessing the Effects of Bank Stabilization Activities on Wildlife Communities of the Upper Yellowstone River, U.S.A.*

At the October 16, 2001 Task Force meeting, the Task Force members voted that it was in full support of the TAC recommendation that "an errata sheet be added to all printed copies of the USGS-BRD Open File Report #01-58. The errata sheet would clearly state that the publication is not endorsed nor supported in any way by the Task Force or their TAC, and any mention of these groups in the text should be considered to be expunged." In addition, it was recommended that no further copies of this publication would be re-printed or released. Liz reported that the letter from John Bailey to the USGS stated that position, and requested that Mr. Ischinger (USGS Section Leader) affirm that those actions would take place. As of November 13, the Task Force had not heard back from the USGS. After a short discussion, it was decided to wait 30 more days for a reply. If there was still no reply, another letter should be sent from John Bailey.

## VI. Socio-Economic Assessment Update

Liz reported that the next meeting for the Socio-Economic Subcommittee would be held November 30, 2001. The new Socio-Economic Assessment contractor (BBC) will come and make a formal introduction and presentation to the Task Force at the December 13 Task Force meeting.

## VII. Task Force Coordinator Evaluation

John Bailey reported that a Coordinator Evaluation Subcommittee met last week to discuss Liz Galli-Noble's performance. John said the subcommittee is very pleased with Liz and expressed gratitude for all of the additional work she has done over the past year. The subcommittee recommended a two-dollar an hour raise be given to Liz, starting on her next paycheck.

**Roy Aserlind moved to "give Liz a two-dollar an hour raise."**

**Dave Haug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

John Bailey said the decision will now go to the Park Conservation District to give the final approval for the raise.

## **VIII. Outreach and Education Activities Updates**

### **1. Website Establishment**

Liz presented information (*Attachment B*) about the possible establishment of a Task Force website. The Task Force has been invited to be a part of the Park Conservation District website, which should be up and running by January 2002. Task Force members looked over the proposal Liz's briefing, which included start up and maintenance costs. A short discussion followed. One issue that was brought up was whether or not the proper place for the Task Force website would be under the Park CD. Would people be able to easily find Task Force information using this path? Bob Wiltshire asked if the website establishment outlined in the briefing is really the cheapest route for the Task Force? He suggested that he knows of alternatives. Bob also asked if the group felt that the Task Force really needs a website? No final decision was made at this time, but the Task Force members felt that it is important to have an informational website. John Bailey suggested that a Website Subcommittee be put together to work on the task; John felt that further investigation was needed on design, price, location, and content. Liz, Bob, and John were assigned to the new subcommittee. Anyone else know was interested was also welcomed to join. The subcommittee would try and report back to the Task Force by the December 13 meeting.

### **2. Montana Department of Transportation**

John Bailey and Liz Galli-Noble met with the Montana Department of Transportation on October 30 to discuss the MDT's Yellowstone Bridges presentation to the Task Force. The presentation would include information about the criteria used when building bridges and how the bridges are affecting the Yellowstone River. Stan Sternberg (MDT Ex-Officio Task Force member) has arranged for engineers, bridge designers, and public relations personnel make up a panel that will co-present at the January 2002 Task Force meeting. That meeting has been tentatively set for January 17<sup>th</sup>, but can be changed to accommodate MDT schedules.

### **3. Coordinator Activities**

Liz Galli-Noble reported that she has accomplished the following outreach activities since the October Task Force meeting:

- a. Met with Congressman Rehberg's Helena Office staff on October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Attended the October 31<sup>st</sup> Montana Watershed Coordination Council quarterly meeting in Helena.
- c. Attended the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council RAC meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> in Billings.

## **IX. 2001 Annual Report – Draft #1**

Liz Galli-Noble sent copies of the draft *2001 Annual Report* to the Task Force members on November 12, and requested that they review the document and bring comments to this meeting. Several members commented that a one day turn-around was not sufficient time for them to review the report, so Liz committed to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft to them one week before the December Task Force meeting.

The group then went page-by-page through the 1<sup>st</sup> draft report and made the following edits:

1. Page 3: delete the entire *New Section: Study Needs/Issue Identification List*.

2. Page 3, last paragraph: replace "Upon completion" with "All data,".
3. Page 4: add language about the Socio-Economic Assessment.
4. Page 4: rewrite the last paragraph to read "The goal of the Task Force is to make river management recommendations to Governor Martz in late August 2003. We will also present these recommendations to other entities such as, the Corps, DNRC, and DEQ. It is our intent that such recommendations are consistent with other agencies' regulatory authorities and help to guide their decision-making processes. With defensible science as foundation for recommendations and with ongoing input and review from the local community and regulatory agency partners, these recommendations will have public support and practical application in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin".
5. Page 4: add an introduction to this section that addresses the new/old member transition; add "former" members' profiles to this section.
6. Page 8: use TMDL language from *2000 Annual Report*.
7. Page 8, SAMP: add that the Corps was an ex-officio member of the Task Force before this action.
8. Page 23: The Socio-Economic Subcommittee will discuss that section at their next meeting.
9. Pages 26 to 30: add dates to tables for clarity.
10. Page 27: use grant estimates to fill-in *Outreach/Education and Recommendation Development* section in this table.

It was suggested that all changes made between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> draft reports be made in a different color and font, so the Task Force members can focus their edits on new text.

## **X. Looking Ahead**

Although it was not on the formal agenda, John Bailey felt that it might be a good time to start thinking about how the Task Force will be proceeding in the near future. Lot's of data will be coming in over the next year and the Task Force needs to think about how they are going to utilize that information. John asked the group to think about how the Task Force can move forward with the science that will soon be made available? He also asked the group if a facilitator would be needed to present the information to the Task Force and/or help them progress through the management recommendation process?

Discussion followed. Task Force members had mixed feelings about the process of moving from the scientific data to formulation of recommendations. They did informally comment that the use of a facilitator might not be a good idea. No formal decisions were made, however.

John stressed to the Task Force that they had from now until September 2002 to wait for the data to start coming in at a steady rate, he suggested that the group use this "down time" to start thinking about what to do with this information. John asked the group if they felt the Task Force should take the information and make recommendations before it is presented to the public, or should they let the public take the information and make suggestions to the Task Force first (before the Task Force makes any recommendations)? The group agreed that it would be best if the Task Force took the information first and made recommendations to the public.

## **XI. Schedule Next Task Force Meeting**

The next Task Force meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Yellowstone Inn.

Thursday, January 17, 2002 at the Yellowstone Inn.

## **XII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**